

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN SERIAL # 09/933,725

CLAIMS:

Claim 1 would be replaced by the following:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for efficient forming of building blocks that are uniform in size and shape from freshly dug soil comprising:

a casing having [six] a plurality of sides, said casing comprising at least [two apertures] one first aperture in an upper surface of said casing for the introduction [and ejection] of a quantity of soil, at least one second aperture in a lower surface of said casing for the ejection of said building blocks, and an enclosed cavity of adjustable dimensions defined by said plurality of sides, wherein two opposing sides of said casing are adjustable within the remaining [four] sides of said casing for adjusting said dimensions of said cavity, said two opposing sides of said casing [being capable of] traveling within the entirety of said casing and [of] creating sufficient pressure against one another for the compression of said quantity of soil;

[mechanical] means for compressing said quantity of soil within said casing to specific pressures between said two opposing sides to form said building blocks;

→ [mechanical] means for moving said two opposed sides within said casing ^{introduction} between areas of compression and ejection within said casing;

[mechanical] means for ejecting said [quantity of soil] building blocks from the bottom of said casing through said at least one second aperture by moving said two opposing sides apart such that said building block falls downwardly by [use of] gravity after compression; and

→ a programmable controller that controls said size and design of said building blocks by controlling said ^{introduction} [mechanical] means for compressing, means for moving and means for ejecting whereby consistent compression is imposed on said quantity of soil.

Claim 2 would be replaced by the following:

2. (Currently Amended) A method for the efficient forming of building blocks that are uniform in size and design from freshly dug soil by a self-enclosed linear process of receiving, moving, and compressing [and ejecting] a quantity of soil to form said building blocks and ejecting said building blocks comprising:

controlling said size and design of said building blocks formed by said self-enclosed linear process using a programmable controller and operable mechanical means;

introducing said quantity of soil into a casing through a first aperture in an upper surface of said casing [using a vibratory device], wherein said casing comprises [six] a plurality of sides and an enclosed cavity of adjustable dimensions, said cavity having two opposing faces formed from two opposing sides of said casing, wherein said two opposing sides are adjustable within the remaining [four] sides of said casing for adjusting said dimensions of said cavity;

displacing said quantity of soil through said cavity in said casing to an area of compression within said casing by moving said two opposing sides;

compressing said quantity of soil within said casing between said two opposing sides by reducing said dimensions of said cavity to form said building blocks;
displacing said building blocks [quantity of soil] after compression to an ejection area within said casing by moving said two opposing sides; and
ejecting said building blocks [quantity of soil] from the bottom of said casing through a second aperture in a lower surface of said casing by allowing said building blocks to fall downwardly through gravity by increasing said dimensions of said cavity.

Claim 4 would be replaced by the following:

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a casing having six sides [or more, in] through which two opposing faces of said two opposing sides travel within said casing for the purpose of receiving, displacing, and compressing said quantity of soil and ejecting [a quantity of soil] said building blocks.

Claim 5 would be replaced by the following:

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a casing cylindrical in nature through which two opposing faces of said two opposing sides travel within said casing for the purpose of receiving, displacing, and compressing said quantity of soil and ejecting [a quantity of soil] said building blocks.

Claim 7 would be replaced by the following:

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein a plurality of said [cases may be] casings are fastened to one another with the purpose of creating a higher volume of compressed [soil] building blocks simultaneously that are uniform in size and design.

Claim 8 would be replaced by the following:

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein [cases] a plurality of said casings of varying dimensions may be fastened to one another with the purpose of creating compressed [soil] building blocks simultaneously that are varied in size and design.

Claim 9 would be replaced by the following:

9. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 2, wherein [the] said opposing faces of said cavity are [moveable] moved by [an] said operable mechanical means.

Claim 10 would be replaced by the following:

10. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 2, wherein said opposing faces of said cavity are controlled by an operable command means of said programmable controller, which [is effective, when operated, to] commands [the] said opposing faces [between stages of operation] during said ^{introducing} displacing, compressing and ejecting steps.

Claim 11 would be replaced by the following:

11. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 2, wherein said quantity of soil is introduced into said casing by a vibration means.

Claim 12 would be replaced by the following:

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the efficient forming of building blocks that are uniform in size and design from freshly dug soil by a self-enclosed linear process of receiving, moving, and compressing a quantity of soil to form said building blocks and ejecting [a quantity of soil] said building blocks comprising:

means for controlling said size and design of said building blocks formed by said self-enclosed linear process using a programmable controller and operable mechanical means;

means for introducing said quantity of soil into a casing through a first aperture in an upper surface of said casing [using a vibratory device], wherein said casing comprises [six] a plurality of sides and an enclosed cavity of adjustable dimensions, said cavity having two opposing faces formed from two opposing sides of said casing, wherein said two opposing sides are adjustable within the remaining [four] sides of said casing for adjusting said dimensions of said cavity;

means for displacing said quantity of soil through said cavity in said casing to an area of compression within said casing by moving said two opposing sides;

means for compressing said quantity of soil within said casing between said two opposing sides by reducing said dimensions of said cavity to form said building blocks;

means for displacing said [quantity of soil] building blocks after compression to an ejection area within said casing by moving said two opposing sides; and

means for ejecting said [quantity of soil] building blocks from the bottom of said casing through a second aperture in a lower surface of said casing by allowing said building blocks to fall downwardly through gravity by increasing said dimensions of said cavity.

ABSTRACT:

The abstract would be replaced by the following:

A portable single station method and apparatus for compressing a quantity of freshly dug soil into building blocks by an enclosed system which provides a linear process for receiving and compressing the quantity of soil and for ejecting the formed, compressed building blocks. The system includes a stationary chamber equipped with an internal adjustable cavity in which the desired block is formed and a pair of opposing pressure heads capable of moving toward and away from each other in unison or independently to receive, compress, and eject the building blocks.